



ABSTRACTS **of the 2008** **Massachusetts** **Fish & Wildlife Laws**



251 Causeway Street • Suite 400 • Boston, MA 02114 • (617) 626-1590 • www.mass.gov/masswildlife

Wayne F. MacCallum, *Director*

Publication of this Document approved by Philmore Anderson III, State Purchasing Agent



From the Director

Thank you for purchasing a 2008 hunting and/or fishing license. Hunting and fishing are among the most ancient and traditional of our outdoor recreational pursuits and play a tremendous role in the Commonwealth's wildlife conservation efforts. Historically, hunters and anglers were among the first to recognize the need for science-based wildlife conservation programs, and their willingness to tax themselves has provided significant, reliable funding for the restoration, protection and management of our wildlife resources through their license and permit fees and the federal excise taxes they pay whenever they purchase firearms, fishing rods and related equipment.

Even more impressive, and certainly less known even among sportsmen themselves, is the enormous impact of hunting and fishing on the nation's economy. The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation recently reported that America's 34 million licensed hunters and anglers spend more than \$76 billion a year to pursue their sports, directly supporting more than 1.6 million jobs. Those are very impressive figures. If we were a company, sportsmen would rank in the top 20 list of the Fortune 500; and if we were a country, our gross domestic product would rank us 57th out of 181 countries worldwide!

Sportsmen deserve the appreciation and approbation of the general public for their long commitment, both financial and political, to conservation, but we also have something else to offer: the promotion of healthy, lifelong, outdoor activities. A mounting body of evidence indicates that a growing segment of the public — particularly children — are today suffering from what has been termed "Nature Deficit Disorder." This non-medical term refers to the observation that as people become more alienated from the natural world and spend more and more of their time in the virtual world of cell phones, television and computer screens, they suffer physical and psychological consequences such as obesity, depression and attention deficit disorder. When we are deprived of regular contact with things wild and green — the world in which our species evolved to live — such negative effects are almost guaranteed.

Hunting and fishing are among the best ways to reconnect yourself and your loved ones to the natural world. These sports can be pursued as family activities that involve all ages and aptitudes, and their physical and psychological benefits are obvious to all who participate. So get yourself, your children, your parents and grandchildren out into the natural world to enjoy those lifetime health benefits. While you are at it, you will be aiding conservation, supporting scientific wildlife management, helping us add to the 165,000 acres of permanently protected wildlife habitat currently owned or controlled by our agency (we added more than 4,000 acres to our holdings during the past fiscal year), and of course, keeping the state and national economy afloat!

There were few major changes to the fish and wildlife laws this past year. The only one that generated significant public interest was the liberalization of the coyote season. While the majority of states classify coyotes as varmints that can be killed year round, here in Massachusetts we conserve them as we do all our native species, and manage them as renewable resources. We respect them as valuable furbearing game animals that fill an ecological niche in the Commonwealth and provide recreational and even financial benefits to the public. Coyotes are extremely smart and wary animals, difficult to hunt and supremely adept at adapting to new situations and habitats. When coyotes cause problems — by killing livestock or becoming aggressive toward people for instance — they must be removed or the problem is likely to continue or even escalate as the animals become bolder and teach their offspring the same bad behavior. By increasing the season length, allowing hunters to take them during the shotgun deer season, and permitting specially certified animal control agents to take coyotes under certain circumstances, we have provided an effective means to



remove problem animals from the coyote population; instill and maintain a healthy fear of humans in that population; and provide hunters with more recreational opportunities and the chance to obtain their beautiful furs.

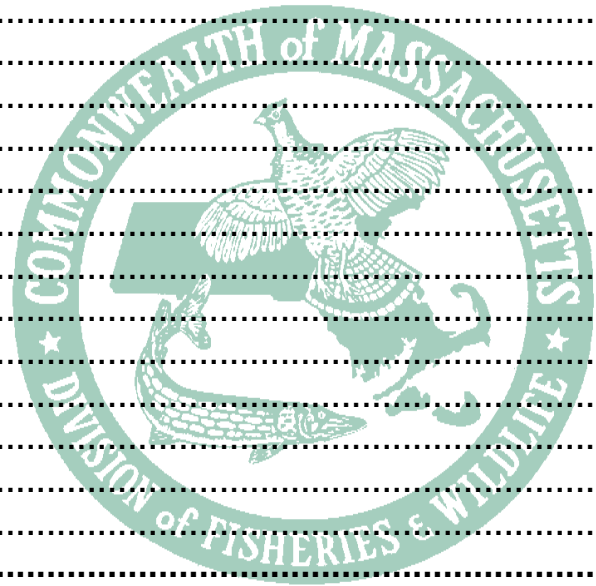
Massachusetts offers exceptional opportunities for wildlife viewing, fishing, hiking, hunting, boating and wildlife photography in large part because sportsmen have demonstrated a deep, personal commitment to wildlife and wild places that far surpasses that of the general public's. We appreciate and thank you for your continued support of our agency through your license fees, your donations, and your community involvement. You can rest assured we will continue to do all we can to insure that the wildlife resources you enjoy today will still be there for the enjoyment of your great, great, great grandchildren.

Wayne F. MacCallum
Wayne F. MacCallum, Director

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NEW FOR 2008: Coyote hunting season/regulations have changed, see page 10. Shotgun ammunition clarification, see page 15.

These Abstracts contain a summary of the laws and regulations in place as of September 1, 2007. Any changes in law or regulation enacted after September 1 are distributed through our regular press releases to the news media, town clerk offices, all license sales outlets and on our website. These are not the complete laws and regulations. Laws and regulations (MGL Ch.131 and 321 CMR) are subject to change.

Hunting, fishing, sporting, and trapping licenses do not have to be displayed in a visible manner, but they must be carried on your person and shown on demand to any officer empowered to enforce these laws, and to landowners or lessees while on their property. A hunting, fishing or trapping license is not a permit to trespass on private land, posted or not. Remember, your privilege to enter on private land is a courtesy extended to you by the owner. Practice courtesy yourself if you want to continue hunting or fishing.

License sales outlets may sell a hunting or sporting license only after seeing proof of a previous year's hunting license or a certificate of completion of a hunter education course from any state or province.

To obtain a License to Carry or a Firearms Identification card, contact your local police department. To obtain a nonresident License to Carry, a permit to possess firearms by aliens, or for more information on Massachusetts gun laws, contact the CHSB, Firearms Support Services, 200 Arlington St., Suite 2200, Chelsea, MA 02150, tel. (617) 660-4780. **Please see page 17 for Massachusetts Gun Laws.**

FISHING

	ALL DATES INCLUSIVE	Daily Creel	Length ¹
TROUT ²			
lakes, ponds, major rivers ^{3, 5, 6}	Jan.1 - Dec. 31	3	—
all other rivers and brooks ⁴	April 1 - Sept. 10	8	—
	Sept. 11 - March 31	3	—
LAKE TROUT			
	Jan.1 - Dec. 31		
Wachusett Reservoir	"	3	—
Quabbin	"	2	18"
SALMON (landlocked)	"	2	15"
SALMON (broodstock) ⁷	"	2	15"
AMERICAN SHAD	"	6	—
CHAIN PICKEREL	"	5	15"
BLACK BASS (Largemouth and Smallmouth, singly or combined):	"	5	12"
NORTHERN PIKE	"	1	28"
TIGER MUSKIE	"	1	28"
WALLEYE	"	5	14"
SMELT ⁸	Jan. 1 - Feb. 29	—	—
	May 16 - Dec. 31	—	—
ALL OTHER FRESHWATER SPECIES	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	—	—

STRIPED BASS and HERRING: For season, size and possession limits call the Division of Marine Fisheries at (617) 626-1520, or visit their website at www.mass.gov/dfwele/dmf.

POSSESSION OF: Sturgeon (all species), American Brook Lamprey, Bridle Shiner, Burbot, Eastern Silvery Minnow, Lake Chub, Longnose Sucker, and Northern Redbelly Dace IS ILLEGAL! If caught RELEASE IMMEDIATELY.

¹ **Minimum length** is measured as the straight line (not curved over the body) from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. Forked tails may be squeezed together for the final measurement.

² **Trout** applies to Brook, Brown, Rainbow and Tiger (a cross between a female brown and a male brook trout). From April 1 to September 10, no more than eight trout as defined may be taken daily, and only three of those trout may be from lakes, ponds, or major rivers³. From Sept. 11 to Mar. 31, no more than three trout as defined, may be taken daily.

³ **Major Rivers:** Childs, Coonamessett, Deerfield, Farmington, Green (Colrain), Green (Great Barrington), Ipswich, Jones, Mashpee, Millers, Nissitissit, North (Colrain), North (West Branch), Parker, Quaboag, Quinapoxet, Quinebaug, Seven Mile, Santuit, Scorton Creek, Shawsheen, Squannacook, Stillwater (Sterling, Princeton), Swift (East Branch), Swift (Winsor Dam to Ware River, except as posted), Tully (East and West Branches), Ware, Ware (East Branch), Westfield (All Branches).

⁴ **Mainstem Housatonic River** from the confluence of the East and West Branches to the MA/CT line, exclusive of catch and release areas, limit one trout, minimum length 20 inches.

⁵ **Special brown trout water:** South Pond (Quacumquasit), Brookfield. Total daily creel is 3 trout but **only 1** may be a brown trout and it must be at least 15".

⁶ **Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs:** Opening and closing dates are set by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Visit www.mass.gov/dcr/waterSupply or for Quabbin Reservoir call 413-323-7221, for Wachusett/Sudbury Reservoirs call 508-835-4816 or 978-365-3800. The use of lead fishing sinkers including, but not limited to, split shot, bullet weights, egg sinkers, slip sinkers, bell sinkers, pinch sinkers, rubber grip sinkers, bank sinkers, pyramid sinkers, or twist, strap or wraparound sinkers for the taking of fish in Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs is prohibited. Lead fishing sinkers **DO NOT** include other lead fishing-related items such as artificial lures, jigs, lead-core line, down-rigger weights, keel sinkers, torpedo casting and trolling sinkers, or weighted flies.

⁷ **The harvest of broodstock salmon** (Atlantic salmon) is lawful in all inland waters of Massachusetts except in: 1) the Connecticut River and all its tributaries, and 2) the Merrimack River downstream of the Essex Dam in Lawrence, MA and all its tributaries downstream of the Essex Dam in Lawrence, MA. The possession of an Atlantic salmon (including broodstock salmon) while fishing in the Connecticut River and all its tributaries and in the Merrimack River downstream of the Essex Dam in Lawrence, MA and all its tributaries downstream of the Essex Dam in Lawrence, MA is prohibited.

⁸ **Smelt** may be taken by hook and line only.

Bait: Permit required to take baitfish for purpose of sale. **Frogs** (except leopard frogs) 2-1/2" or less snout to vent may be used as bait; 10 daily, 10 in possession. May not be sold. **Baitfish** may be taken by licensed anglers at any time (except for purposes of sale) with a rectangular net not exceeding 36 square feet of net area or by a hoop or circular net not exceeding 6 feet in diameter or with a fish trap with openings not exceeding one inch. The following species may be taken for personal use as bait by licensed anglers. **Fish species not listed below may not be used as bait, live or dead.**

American eel	Banded killifish	Bluntnose minnow
Creek chubsucker	Emerald shiner	Fallfish
Fathead minnow	Golden shiner	Mummichog
Pumpkinseed	Rainbow smelt [‡]	Yellow perch
Spottail shiner	White sucker	

[‡] Hook and line only. Possession or use of smelt as bait in inland waters other than during the smelt season is prohibited.

Herring — For current regulations on the use, possession and taking of herring contact the Div. of Marine Fisheries, (617) 626-1520 or www.mass.gov/dfwele/dmf.

Catch and Release Areas:

Artificial lures only. No bait in possession.

Housatonic River - From the Route 20 bridge in Lee downstream to Willow Mill Dam AND from Glendale Dam downstream to the R.R. bridge. No Fishing from June 15 - August 31 inclusive within 100 feet from the mouths of posted tributaries. Posted tributaries are: Beartown Brook, Goose Pond Brook, Hop Brook and Mohawk Brook.

Red Brook - From the outlet of White Island Pond to the inlet of Buttermilk Bay.

Nissitissit River - From the New Hampshire border to the Prescott St. Bridge. **FLY FISHING ONLY.**

Swift River - Winsor Dam to Rte. 9, catch & release **FLY FISHING ONLY** (year around); Rte. 9 to Cady Lane, catch & release July 1 - Dec. 31 (Artificials only).

Deerfield River - Fife Brook Dam to Hoosac Tunnel, and the section extending from Pelham Brook to the Mohawk Campground.

Westfield River, East Branch - Immediately below the Chesterfield Gorge parking lot in Chesterfield to the gate north of the Corps of Engineers parking lot at Knightville in Huntington.

Millers River - Templeton/Athol railroad bridge to dam in Athol and from Wendell Rd. bridge in Orange to breached dam in Erving center.

Quashnet River - From the outlet of John's Pond to the sign 0.1 Mile below Route 28.

Fish Consumption Advisories: The MA Dept. of Public Health (MDPH), has issued a statewide advisory for pregnant women not to consume fish caught in fresh water due to elevated levels of mercury in fish. MDPH has also issued fish consumption advisories for the general public on selected bodies of water primarily due to PCB and mercury contamination. For more information or for a list of waters with fish consumption advisories, write or call the MDPH at 250 Washington Street, 7th Floor, Boston, MA 02108-4619; (617) 624-5757 or www.mass.gov/dph.

Interstate Ponds: Wallum Lake, Douglas: fishing permitted by persons duly licensed in Massachusetts or Rhode Island. Rhode Island regulations apply.

Lake Monomonic and Robbins Pond, Winchendon; Long Pond, Tyngsboro and Dracut; Bent Pond, Warwick; Tux-

bury Pond, Amesbury: fishing permitted by persons duly licensed in Massachusetts or New Hampshire. New Hampshire regulations apply.

Colebrook Reservoir, Tolland; Perry Pond, Dudley; Muddy Pond, Southbridge; Breakneck Pond, Sturbridge; Congamond Lake, Southwick; Hamilton Reservoir, Holland: fishing permitted by persons duly licensed in Massachusetts or Connecticut. Connecticut regulations apply to Colebrook Reservoir, Breakneck Pond, Perry Pond and Muddy Pond. Massachusetts regulations apply to Congamond Lake and Hamilton Reservoir.

Sherman Reservoir, Rowe: MA regulations apply and MA license required in MA. Vermont regulations apply and VT license required in VT.

Spears, Bow and Arrows - May be used to take suckers, carp and eels only. Fishing license required.

FREE FISHING WEEKEND

June 7 & 8, 2008 — **No license needed**

PROHIBITED

Explosives

Jug, toggle or trot line fishing.

More than two hooks for fishing or more than five hooks when ice fishing. A hook is defined as an angling device which is attached to a fishing line and which is designed to take one fish at a time, including, but not limited to, devices commonly called spinners, spoons, bait harnesses, lead head jigs or plugs, the purpose of which is to capture the fish by enticing it to take the device into its mouth.

Poisons

Releasing fish or spawn into inland waters, except by permit.

Rubbish in inland waters

Sale of freshwater fish without a permit.

Snagging

Transporting live fish (except bait for personal use) without a permit.

For Boat Registration Information
phone: (617) 626-1610.



Marine Fisheries

A Commonwealth of Massachusetts Agency

Have any questions regarding regulations pertaining to the harvesting of salt water fish species? Call the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries information hotline at (617) 626-1520 or visit www.mass.gov/dfwele/dmf

SPORTFISHING AWARDS

Awards for freshwater fish are offered in 22 categories. Each qualified entry receives a bronze pin. Largest fish in each category each year receives a "gold" pin and plaque. There is also an annual award for a Master Angler who has taken the greatest variety of "pinfish" during the year. Fish must meet minimum weight requirements as listed below, and must be weighed on a scale certified by the Mass. Division of Standards or a town official. Please check our website for a list of weigh stations and/or to download an affidavit. This information is also available at DFW offices.

Current Minimum Weights

Species	Adult	Youth
Broodstock salmon	10 lbs. 0 ozs.	5 lbs. 0 ozs.
Brook trout	2 lbs. 0 ozs.	1 lb. 0 ozs.
Brown trout	5 lbs. 0 ozs.	3 lbs. 0 ozs.
Bullhead	2 lbs. 0 ozs.	1 lb. 0 ozs.
Carp	15 lbs. 0 ozs.	10 lbs. 0 ozs.
Chain pickerel	4 lbs. 8 ozs.	3 lbs. 0 ozs.
Channel catfish	6 lbs. 0 ozs.	5 lbs. 0 ozs.
Crappie	1 lb. 8 ozs.	1 lb. 0 ozs.
Lake trout	7 lbs. 0 ozs.	5 lbs. 0 ozs.
Landlocked salmon*	4 lbs. 0 ozs.	3 lbs. 0 ozs.
Largemouth bass	7 lbs. 0 ozs.	4 lbs. 0 ozs.
Northern pike	15 lbs. 0 ozs.	10 lbs. 0 ozs.
Rainbow trout	4 lbs. 0 ozs.	2 lbs. 0 ozs.
Shad	5 lbs. 0 ozs.	3 lbs. 0 ozs.
Smallmouth bass	4 lbs. 8 ozs.	3 lbs. 0 ozs.
Sunfish**	0 lbs. 12 ozs.	0 lbs. 8 ozs.
Tiger muskie	10 lbs. 0 ozs.	7 lbs. 0 ozs.
Tiger trout	2 lbs. 0 ozs.	1 lb. 0 ozs.
Walleye	4 lbs. 0 ozs.	2 lbs. 0 ozs.
White catfish	4 lbs. 0 ozs.	2 lbs. 0 ozs.
White perch	1 lb. 8 ozs.	1 lb. 0 ozs.
Yellow perch	1 lb. 8 ozs.	1 lb. 0 ozs.

* Landlocked Salmon are recognized only from Quabbin & Wachusett Reservoirs

** Sunfish category includes bluegills, pumpkinseeds and rock bass.

Avoid Aquatic Hitch Hikers!

INVASIVE PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES ARE A MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM

ALWAYS WASH BOATS, MOTORS and TRAILERS, and ALWAYS EMPTY BAIT BUCKETS and LIVE WELLS

BEFORE MOVING from ONE BODY of WATER to ANOTHER. DON'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTAMINATING NEW WATERS with INVASIVE SPECIES!

Fish of Massachusetts

More than 80 fish species inhabit the inland waters of the Commonwealth. This is a small sample of some of the most popular species commonly taken by anglers.

Largemouth Bass



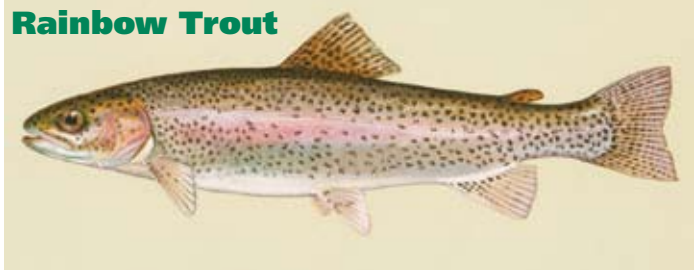
Largemouth Bass – A warm-water gamefish found in lakes, ponds and slow moving rivers associated with weeds and structure. Typically 1 – 3 lbs, but can reach up to 15 lbs. Dark line along each side is a good identification mark.

Smallmouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass - Less common than largemouths, these cool water gamefish are found in clear, rocky habitats. Average size is 1 – 2 lbs, but can reach up to 8 lbs. This species often jumps spectacularly when hooked.

Rainbow Trout



Rainbow Trout - These trout thrive in cold, well oxygenated, fast moving water. Typical hatchery fish are 12 to 16 inches, with larger specimens to 20+ inches. Profusely speckled and usually has a pink line along each side.

Brown Trout



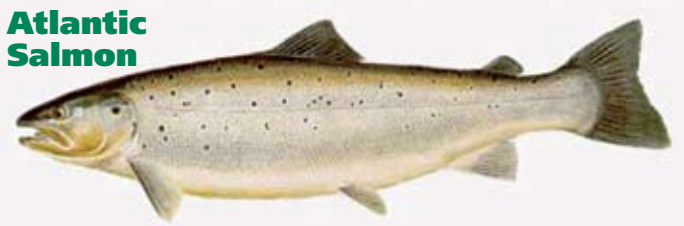
Brown Trout – This trout thrives in heavy cover and deep pools of cold, well oxygenated water. Typically stocked at 10 – 14 inches with larger specimens to 20+ inches. Many wild populations exist in small to medium streams.

Brook Trout



Brook Trout - This beautiful native char thrives in clean, cold, well oxygenated waters. It is found in high gradient streams and slow moving beaver flowages. Wild brookies average 6 – 8 inches, but stocked specimens are typically 10-12 inches or larger. Considered by many to be the most beautiful fish in North America.

Atlantic Salmon



Atlantic Salmon – The anadromous form of this species lives in the open ocean but ascends freshwater rivers to spawn. The landlocked form lives in deep, cold, freshwater habitats and spawns in tributaries. Anadromous form grows to 20 pounds; landlocks average 2 to 4 pounds. Landlocked populations occur in the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs; attempts to restore sea-run populations to the Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers continue.

Brown Bullhead



Brown Bullhead - Our native "horn" pout" catfish thrives in warm-water habitats associated with muddy bottoms and aquatic vegetation. Average size is 8-12 inches, but larger ones are not uncommon. Handle this fish (and all catfish) with care, as spines in the dorsal and pectoral fins can inflict painful wounds.

Yellow Perch



Yellow Perch – A native cool-water panfish found in the vegetated areas of lakes, ponds, slow streams and almost any open water with moderate vegetation. Typically 8-10 inches but larger fish not uncommon. A schooling fish, it is safe to assume that if you find one, there are others in the same vicinity.

Chain Pickerel



Chain Pickerel - A native cool-water gamefish found in shallow, vegetated areas of fairly clear lakes, ponds and rivers. Typically 15 to 20 inches but larger specimens are not uncommon. Respected for its sharp teeth which can easily cut most fishing lines and inflict minor wounds.

Bluegill



Bluegill – A sunfish that prefers shallow, weedy, warm water habitats. Typically 4-7 inches in length with larger specimens to 10 inches. Identified by the solid black flap on gill cover and a dark patch near the back, bottom edge of the dorsal fin.

Pumpkinseed



Pumpkinseed - A native sunfish, this pretty little "kivver" is found in weedy, warm-water habitats. Most are 4-7 inches, but can get up to 8 or 9 inches. Look for blue "warpaint" on the face and a red/orange-tipped gill flap.

Black Crappie



Black Crappie – This "calico" sunfish is found in weedy, warm-water habitats. It often forms schools in submerged structure, especially brush piles and fallen trees. Typically 5-12 inches, but larger specimens not uncommon.

HUNTING

NO HUNTING ON SUNDAY

NO HUNTING ON SUNDAY		Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Season Limit	
Species	Open season (All dates inclusive)				
Birds:					
Crow ¹	Jan. 1 - Apr. 10 Jul. 1 - Apr. 10, 2009	-	-	-	
Pheasant ²	Oct. 18 - Nov. 29	2	4	6	
Quail ³	Oct. 18 - Nov. 29	4	8	20	
Ruffed Grouse ⁴	Oct. 18 - Nov. 29	3	6	15	
Turkey ⁵ Spring: Zones 1 - 10; 13: Apr. 28 - May 24 Zones 11 & 12: Apr. 28 - May 10 Fall: Zones 1 - 9; 13: Oct. 27 - Nov. 1					
Waterfowl / migratory birds (including woodcock) see Migratory Bird Abstracts, available in September.					
Mammals:					
Black Bear ⁶	Sep. 2 - Sep. 20 Nov. 3 - Nov. 22	See Note # 6			
Bobcat ⁷	Jan. 1 - Mar. 8 Dec. 20 - Mar. 7, 2009	See Note # 7			
Cottontail Rabbit:					
Zones 1 - 12:	Jan. 1 - Feb. 29 Oct. 18 - Feb. 28, 2009	5	10	-	
Zones 13 & 14:	Jan. 1 - Feb. 29 Nov. 15 - Feb. 28, 2009	5	10	-	
Coyote ⁸	Jan 1 - Mar. 8 Oct. 18 - Mar. 7, 2009	-	-	-	
Deer (archery) ⁹ Deer (shotgun) ⁹ Zones 1 - 11,13,14: Zone 12: Deer (primitive firearms) ⁹	Oct. 13 - Nov. 22 Dec. 1 - Dec. 13 Dec. 1 - Dec. 6 Dec. 15 - Dec. 31	} See Note # 9			
Fox (red or gray)	Jan. 1 - Feb. 29 Nov. 1 - Feb. 28, 2009		-	-	-
Gray Squirrel ¹⁰					
Zones 1 - 9: Zones 10-14:	Sep. 8 - Jan. 2 , 2009 Oct. 18 - Jan. 2 , 2009		5 5	10 10	- -
Jackrabbit ¹¹	Nov. 15 - Dec. 31	1	2	-	
Opossum ¹²	Jan. 1 - Jan. 31 Oct. 1 - Jan. 31, 2009	-	-	-	
Raccoon ¹²	Jan. 1 - Jan. 31 Oct. 1 - Jan. 31, 2009	3	-	-	
Snowshoe Hare					
Zones 1 - 4:	Jan. 1 - Feb. 29 Oct. 18 - Feb. 28, 2009	2	4	-	
Zones 5 - 12:	Jan. 1 - Feb. 5 Oct. 18 - Feb. 5, 2009	2	4	-	
Zones 13 & 14:	Jan.1 - Feb. 5 Nov. 15 - Feb. 5 , 2009	2	4	-	
Reptiles and Amphibians:					
Bullfrog & Green frog ¹³	Jul. 16 - Sep. 30	12	24	-	
Snapping Turtle ¹³	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	-	-	-	

All Hunting Seasons except waterfowl and coyote are closed during shotgun deer season from Dec. 1 to Dec. 13 in Zones 1 - 11, 13 & 14 and from Dec. 1 to Dec. 6 in Zone 12.

The following species may be taken year 'round (except during shotgun deer season) by licensed hunters with no daily or seasonal bag limit: English sparrow, flying squirrel, red squirrel, chipmunk, porcupine, skunk, starling, weasel, woodchuck.

Closed season throughout the year on all birds and mammals not mentioned herein or in Massachusetts Migratory Bird Regulations.

Hunter harassment is against state law. Report violations to the Office of Law Enforcement, 1-800-632-8075 or state or local police. Be prepared to provide a description of violators.

Hunting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset on each day of open season **except** for: **(A)** spring turkey, raccoon and opossum (see footnotes 5 & 12) and **(B)** WMA REG #10 (pg. 16) which states that no person shall hunt before sunrise or after sunset on any WMA where pheasant or quail are stocked during the pheasant or quail season (Oct.18 to Nov. 29) except for the hunting of raccoons and opossums between 9PM and 3AM. **(C)** Hunting for rabbit, hare, fox and coyote which closes at midnight. For Sunrise/Sunset table see page 19.

Furbearer Check Stations: Any wild fox, coyote, fisher, wild mink, river otter or beaver killed must be taken to an official check station to be sealed by an agent of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife within four working days from the end of season for each species. Bobcat must be tagged with official seals within four working days from the date harvested. Sealing is not required for weasel, raccoon, opossum, skunk and muskrat.

Check stations are located at all Wildlife District Headquarters, Bitzer and Sunderland State Fish Hatcheries, Newbury WMA Headquarters, and Westboro Field Headquarters (Monday - Friday excluding holidays). Coyotes may be checked at other locations. Visit our website at www.masswildlife.org or call Westboro Field Headquarters. Call check station prior to bringing animals for sealing.

¹ **Crow** - May be hunted only on Friday, Saturday and Monday during the open season. Hunting hours close 1/2 hr. after sunset except as noted in WMA REG #10 (pg. 16).

² **Pheasants** - Zone from the New Hampshire border south on I-95 to I-495 south to I-95, north on I-95 to I-93/128, east on I-93/128 to Route 3, south on Route 3 to Route 228, north on 228 to the Hull

town line. Cocks and hens west of zone line and on all Wildlife Management Areas. Cocks only east of zone line including Hull and in Dukes and Nantucket counties. See WMA REG #10 (pg. 16).

³ **Quail** - Season limited to Zones 11 - 14. See WMA REG #10 (pg. 20).

⁴ **Ruffed Grouse** - see WMA REG #10 (pg. 16).



Photos by Bill Byrne

⁵ **Turkey** - Permit required. Official safety sticker must be adhered to firearm in such a manner as to be visible when hunter is sighting down the barrel. If new or replacement sticker is needed, send self addressed stamped envelope to MassWildlife's Field Headquarters office. Spring hunting hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon. Fall hunting hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hr. after sunset except as noted in WMA REG #10 (pg. 16). Bag limit: (A) 2 bearded birds in spring season (1 per day) with NO fall bird allowed, OR (B) 1 bearded bird in spring season, and 1 bird of either sex in fall season. Hunting only with shotguns no larger than 10 gauge (.775 cal. for smoothbore muzzleloaders) and restricted to shot sizes #4 - #6, or with bows 40 lbs. pull or greater. Electronic calls, dogs, bait, driving prohibited. Successful hunters must tag bird immediately (with tag attached to permit) and bring bird to an official checking station within 48 hours.

⁶ **Bear** - Permit required - submit application attached to license to Westboro Field Headquarters prior to season opening. Zones 1 - 9 ONLY. Hunting only with rifle .23 caliber or larger, muzzleloader .44 - .775 caliber, bows with 40 lb. pull or greater, or revolvers .357 Magnum or .40 caliber or larger. Handguns permitted in September season only

— **SHOTGUNS PROHIBITED.** Dogs prohibited for hunting and training (See: Hunting Dogs, page 14). Hunting hours close 1/2 hr. after sunset except as noted in WMA Reg. #10 (See hunting hours, page 9). Successful hunters must tag bear immediately (with tag attached to permit) and bring bear to an official checking station within 48 hours. Limit 1 bear per year.

⁷ **Bobcat** - Hunting hours close 1/2 hour after sunset. Hunting limited to Zones 1 - 8. All bobcats taken must be checked within four working days of date of harvest. The Director will close the season when the total harvest reaches 50 animals.

⁸ **Coyote & Fox** - Hunting hours end at midnight. Artificial lights prohibited. Rifles chambered to take larger than .22 caliber long rifle rimfire ammunition and pistols and revolvers larger than .38 caliber are prohibited between the hours of 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise (night time). Shotguns are allowed: see shotgun ammunition, page 15. Firearms other than shotguns and bows and arrows are prohibited on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant and quail season. Coyote and Fox must be tagged within four working days of the end of the season.

⁹ **Deer** - Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and close 1/2 hr. after sunset except as noted in WMA Reg. #10 (page 18).

Antlered deer - any deer with at least one antler 3 inches long measured on a straight line from the center of the anterior (front) base of the antler burr to the tip.

Antlerless deer - a permit is required to harvest antlerless deer during any season in all zones. Only one application per person. Applications must be postmarked no later than **July 16th**. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. Additional permits may be available in certain zones (see pages 16 & 17). Permits are accompanied by a zone-specific tag and are valid in any deer season.

Note: Each 2008 antlerless deer permit has a tag attached, valid for one antlerless deer, increasing the seasonal bag limit for anyone possessing an antlerless deer permit. If you hunt the archery, shotgun, or muzzleloader seasons, you must have an antlerless deer permit to take an antlerless deer. The number of deer a hunter may harvest state-wide depends on the number of antlerless deer permits they purchase. A hunter may possess antlerless deer permits for more than one Zone. For example, if a hunter applies for a permit for Zone 5 through the drawing, and is selected for that permit, that hunter may purchase additional permits for a Zone that has permits available (such as Zone 10 or Zone



Photo by Robert Thomasian

14). Permit availability depends on permit allocation and the number of applicants.

Tagging requirements- Immediately upon killing a deer and prior to moving it (during any deer season), the tag portion must be separated from the license or antlerless deer permit, filled out, and attached to the deer in a conspicuous manner. The deer must be taken to an official checking station by the person who killed it within 48 hours after killing it for validation by a Division of Fisheries and Wildlife representative. At that time the paper tag will be collected and a metal tag affixed. This constitutes the official report of kill as required by law. Deer taken on Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard or Cuttyhunk must be tagged on the island where shot. Deer must not be possessed, transported, or under a person's control unless the deer, or a part of the deer, is open to view. However, after the deer has been tagged with an official metal seal, the deer may be concealed.

After killing 2 deer (except for persons with unused valid deer tags) a person shall not hunt for any bird or mammal other than deer or coyote, during the remainder of the shotgun deer season. This does not apply to hunting waterfowl on coastal waters, or hunting coyotes.

Daily bag: the daily bag limit is determined by the number of valid tags a hunter possesses. Hunters possessing one deer may take an additional deer before presenting the first deer at an official check station. However, all deer must be taken to a check station within 48 hours of being killed.

Annual bag: 2 antlered deer, and as many antlerless deer as the hunter has valid permits for, **PROVIDED** that:

(A) Hunters may purchase additional antlerless deer permits for **available zones** subject to an overall quota in each zone. (See above for antlerless deer permit regulations.)

(B) Hunters may take a maximum of two (2) deer in the **Quabbin** Reservation, both of which may be antlerless, provided the hunter obtains a second antlerless deer permit after checking their first antlerless deer at a Quabbin check station. **Antlerless** deer taken in the Quabbin are not considered part of the statewide bag limit. **Antlered** deer taken in the Quabbin are part of the statewide bag limit.

No person shall kill an antlerless deer unless he or she possesses on his or her person a permit from the director to do so.

During shotgun deer season hunters may use shotguns not larger than 10 gauge, bows and arrows, or muzzleloaders, including modern muzzleloaders, muzzleloaders with telescopic sights, and sabot rounds in muzzleloaders, including hinge action muzzleloaders.

All deer hunters must wear a **minimum of 500 square inches of "hunter orange" on their head, chest, and back** during shotgun and muzzleloader seasons. This includes archers hunting during either season (see below).

The possession of rifles, handguns, or dogs in any woodland or field, or use of same on any game, is **prohibited** during the shotgun deer season except that the use of dogs is lawful for hunting waterfowl on coastal waters.

Driving deer is lawful.



Photo courtesy of Tara Wooley

Importation of deer parts from states or provinces where CWD has been detected is illegal, except that it is legal to import meat that is de-boned, cleaned skull caps, hides without the head, or a fixed taxidermy mount. No live deer, of any species, may be brought into Massachusetts for any purpose.

Quabbin Controlled Hunt: Contact Dept. of Conservation & Recreation (413-323-7221) in June for information. Must apply by August 15.

Paraplegic Hunt: There is a special deer hunt for paraplegic sportsmen, Oct. 30 - Nov. 1. Contact Field HQ for information.

¹⁰ **Gray Squirrel** - Rifles and handguns permitted in Zones 1 - 9; prohibited in Zones 10 - 14. Hunting Hours, see WMA Reg. #10 (pg. 18). No person shall hunt by any means other than shotgun or bow and arrow during the pheasant and quail season on areas stocked with pheasant or quail (see WMA Reg. #9, pg.18).

¹¹ **Jackrabbit** - Season limited to Nantucket County. Zone 14.

¹² **Raccoon & Opossum** - Limit of 3 raccoons from sunset of one day to sunset of following day by one person; 6 by two or more persons hunting in same group. No limit on opossum. Night hunting on Wildlife Management Areas (except Delaney and Flint Pond WMAs) is permitted from sunset to sunrise except from Oct.18 to Nov. 29 on areas stocked with pheasant or quail, when raccoon and opossum may be hunted only from 9PM to 3AM.

¹³ **Bullfrog, Green frog, Snapping Turtle** - No license required. Minimum size for frogs 3" snout to vent.

HUNTING REGULATIONS

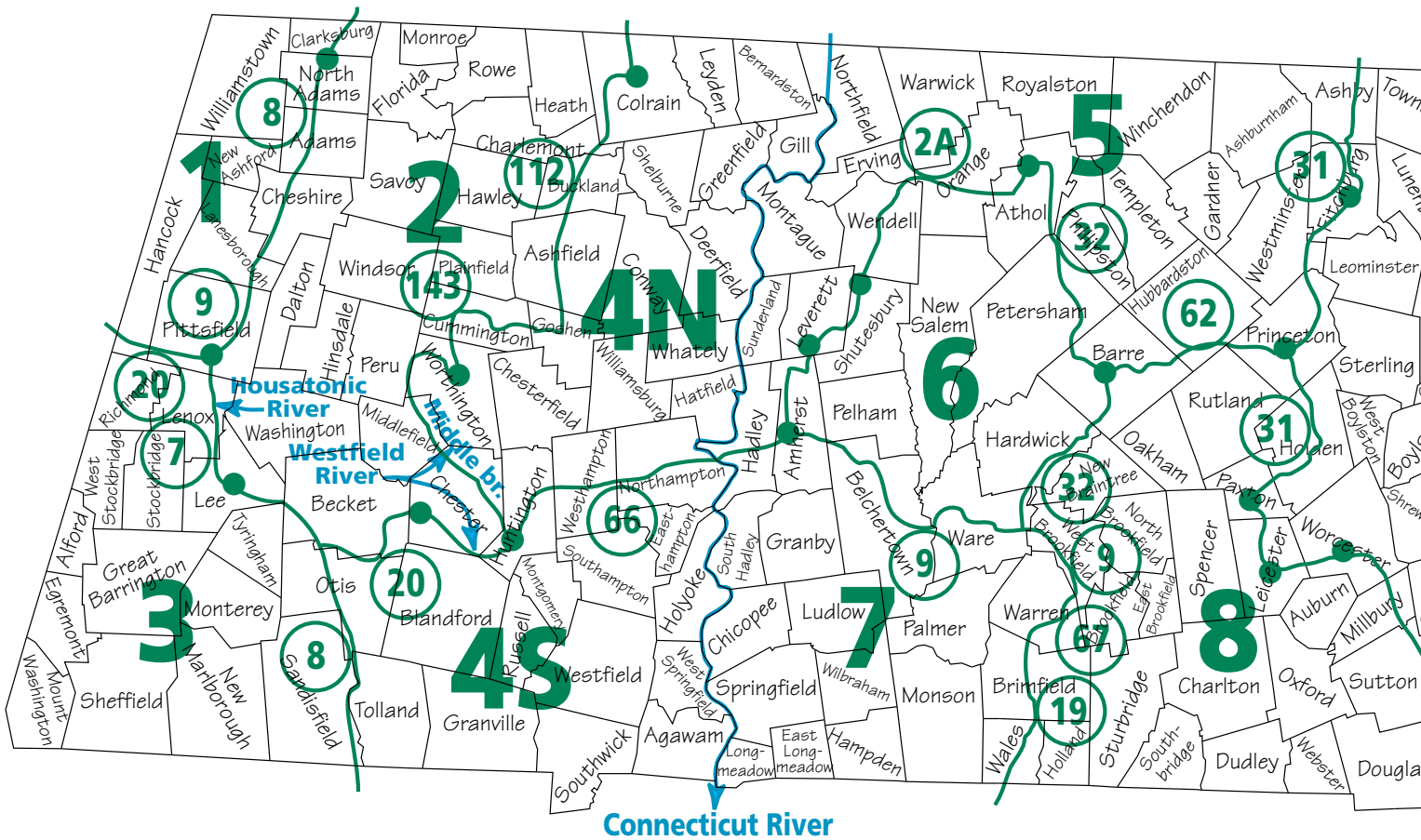
Accidents - All hunting injuries or deaths **MUST** be reported to state, local police, and/or environmental police.

Antlerless deer permit - required to take antlerless deer in any zone during any deer season, in addition to a hunting or sporting license.

Archery - Poisoned arrows, or explosive tips or bows drawn by mechanical means are prohibited. Mechanical releases permitted. Arrows used on deer, bear or turkey must have well-sharpened steel broad-head blades not less than 7/8 of an inch in width. Expanding broadheads are legal. Recurve or long bows for deer, bear or turkey hunting must have at least 40 lbs. pull at 28" or at peak draw weight for compound bows. No arrows may be released within 150 feet of, or across, any state or hard-surfaced highway and hunting is prohibited within 500 feet of any dwelling or building in use, unless authorized by owner or occupant thereof.

Continues, page 14

Wildlife Management



Zone 01 - Northerly by the Vermont border; westerly by the New York border; southerly by a line running along Rte. 20 to the junction with Rte. 7 in Pittsfield; north on Rte. 7 to Rte. 9 and east on Rte. 9 to the junction of Rte. 8; and easterly by a line running from the Vermont border south along Rte. 8 to Rte. 9 in Pittsfield.

Zone 02 - Northerly by Vermont border; westerly by zones 01 and 03; southerly by the Mass. Turnpike (I-90) from the intersection with the Housatonic River in Lee, east to the intersection (dead end) with Bonny Rigg Hill Road in Becket; and easterly by a line running from the Vermont border south along Rte. 112 to Rte. 143 in Worthington, along Rte. 143 west to the intersection with the middle branch of the Westfield River, then south along the middle branch of the Westfield River to the intersection with the East branch of the Westfield River, south along the East branch of the Westfield River to Rte. 20 in Huntington, west along Rte. 20 to Bonny Rigg Hill Road in Becket, south on Bonny Rigg Hill Road to the intersection with the Mass. Turnpike.

Zone 03 - Northerly by zones 01; westerly by the New York border; southerly by the New York and Connecticut borders; and easterly by a line running south along the Housatonic River from the junction with Rte. 9 in Pittsfield to the junction with Rte. 20 in Lee, east along Rte. 20 to the junction with Rte. 8 in West Becket, and south on Rte. 8 to the Connecticut border.

Zone 04 North - Northerly by the Vermont border; westerly by zone 02; southerly by a line running north from the intersection of Rte. 20 and the East branch of the Westfield River in Huntington along the East branch of the Westfield River to the intersection with Rte. 66, along Rte. 66 to the intersection with Rte. 9 in Northampton, to the intersection with the Connecticut River at the Northampton/Hadley town line; and easterly by the Connecticut River.

Zone 04 South - Northerly by zones 02 and 04N; westerly by zone 03; southerly by the Connecticut Border; and easterly by the Connecticut River.

Zone 05 - Northerly by the New Hampshire border; westerly by the Connecticut River; southerly by a line running from the intersection of the Connecticut River and Rte. 9 at the Northampton/Hadley line east along Rte. 9 to Rte. 116 in Hadley, north along Rte. 116 to Rte. 63 in North Amherst, east along Rte. 63 and Pine Street to State Street, northeast along State Street and East Leverett Road to Cushman Road, along Cushman Road to Shutesbury Road in East Leverett, east on Shutesbury Road and Leverett

Road to Wendell Road in Shutesbury Center, north along Wendell Road to Locks Pond Road, north on Locks Pond Road to Lake View Road, northeast on Lake View Road to Locks Village Road, north along Locks Village Road to Depot Road in Wendell, north on Depot Road to Rte. 2A in Wendell Depot, east on Rte. 2A to Rte. 32 in Athol, south on Rte. 32 to Rte. 62 in Barre, and east on Rte. 62 to the intersection with Rte. 31 in Princeton.

Zone 06 - Northerly by zone 05; westerly by zone 05; southerly by a line running from the intersection of Rte. 9 and Rte. 116 in Hadley, east along Rte. 9 to the intersection with Rte. 32 in Ware; and easterly by a line running from the intersection of Rte. 32 and Rte. 62 in Barre, south along Rte. 32 to the intersection with Rte. 9 in Ware.

Zone 07 - Northerly by zones 05 and 06; southerly by the Connecticut border; easterly by a line running from the intersection of Rte. 9 and Rte. 32 in Ware, east along Rte. 9 to the intersection with Rte. 67, southwest along Rte. 67 to the intersection with Rte. 19 in Warren, and south along Rte. 19 to the Connecticut border.

Zone 08 - Northerly by zone 05; southerly by the Connecticut and Rhode Island borders; easterly by the following: Rte. 31 in Princeton south to Rte. 56 in Paxton, Rte. 56 south to Rte. 9 in Leicester, Rte. 9 east to Cambridge Street in Worcester, Cambridge Street east to Rte. 146, Rte. 146 southeast to the Rhode Island border, westerly by zones 06 and 07.

Zone 09 - Northerly by the New Hampshire border; southerly by the Rhode Island border; easterly by the following: Rte. 3 from New Hampshire southeast to Rte. I-495 south to Rte. 121 in Wrentham, 121 southwest to the Rhode Island border; westerly by zones 05 and 08.

Zone 10 - Northerly by the New Hampshire border; southerly by the following: Rte. 1A northeast from Walpole to Rte. 128, Rte. 128 east to Rte. 228, Rte. 228 north to the Atlantic Ocean; easterly by the Atlantic Ocean; westerly by zone 09.

Zone 11 - Northerly by zones 09 and 10; southerly by Buzzard's Bay and the Cape Cod Canal; easterly by the Atlantic Ocean; westerly by the Rhode Island border.

Zone 12 - Northerly, southerly and easterly by the Atlantic Ocean; westerly by zone 11.

Zone 13 - Dukes County (includes Martha's Vineyard).

Zone 14 - Nantucket.

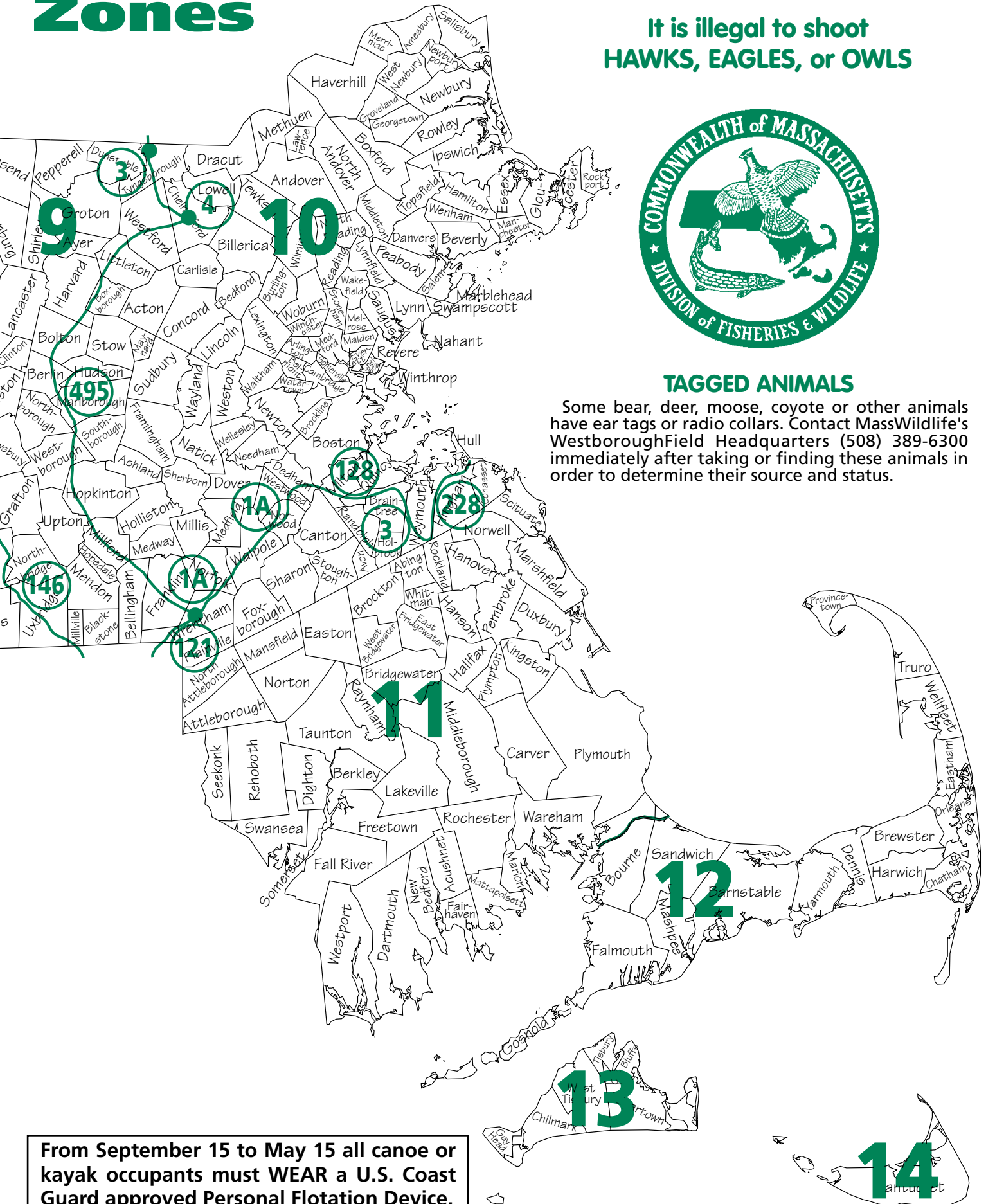
Zones

It is illegal to shoot
HAWKS, EAGLES, or OWLS



TAGGED ANIMALS

Some bear, deer, moose, coyote or other animals have ear tags or radio collars. Contact MassWildlife's Westborough Field Headquarters (508) 389-6300 immediately after taking or finding these animals in order to determine their source and status.



From September 15 to May 15 all canoe or kayak occupants must WEAR a U.S. Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device.

Hunting Regulations, Continued from page 11

Archers, while hunting deer, shall not possess firearms on their person or use dogs. (See deer regulations, page 10, for daily and seasonal bag limits, and antlerless deer permit regulations on page 10.) Archers may hunt with a bow and arrow during the shotgun season and muzzleloader season but must comply with the shotgun or muzzleloader season regulations. **Crossbows may be used by certain permanently handicapped persons by permit only.** For regulations and an application, visit our website or contact MassWildlife at (508) 389-6300.

Hunter Orange - No person shall hunt during the pheasant or quail season on public shooting grounds or Wildlife Management Areas where pheasant or quail are stocked without wearing a "hunter orange" cap or hat except while night-hunting for raccoons or opossums, or while hunting waterfowl from a blind or boat.

During the period when it is legal to hunt deer with a shotgun, all hunters, except waterfowl hunters hunting within a blind or from a boat, must wear, in a conspicuous manner on chest, back, and head, a minimum of 500 square inches of "hunter orange" clothing or material. During the muzzleloader season deer hunters only must comply with the hunter orange requirement.

Hunting Dogs - May be trained at any time (except during the shotgun season on deer) provided no firearms other than pistol or revolver and blank cartridges are used or possessed. No sporting or hunting license necessary. During the shotgun season on deer, dogs may be used for waterfowl hunting on coastal waters only. Hunting bear or bobcat with dogs, or training dogs on those species, is prohibited.

Muzzleloaders - During muzzleloader deer season – hunters may use only shoulder fired muzzleloaders .44 cal to .775 cal.; barrel length 18" or more with only one barrel operational. Inline ignition systems are permitted providing rifle loads from the muzzle. Hinge action (break open) muzzleloaders are **NOT** permitted. Single projectile only (no buckshot). Sabot rounds, 209 primers and scopes are legal. Powder limited to black powder or approved substitutes. Firearm is considered unloaded when cap or pan powder is removed. Stamp required. Archers may hunt during the muzzleloader firearms season but must purchase a primitive firearms stamp and wear at least 500 square inches of hunter orange on head, back and chest.

During shotgun deer season hunters may use shoulder fired muzzleloaders, not larger than .775 cal including modern muzzleloaders, muzzleloaders with telescopic sights, hinge action muzzle loaders and muzzleloaders using sabot rounds. Firearm is considered unloaded when cap or pan powder is removed.

Reptiles and Amphibians - No open season on 25 species: hunting, taking, possessing alive prohibited. Regulations available from MassWildlife. Possession limit of 2 on all others except bullfrog, green frog, or snapping turtle. (See pg. 8).

Tree Stands - Must have written permission of landowner to construct **or use** any tree stand held in place with nails, bolts, etc., or in place for more than 30 days.

PROHIBITED

Artificial Lights for hunting any bird or mammal except raccoon and opossum.

Baiting wild birds, bear or deer.

Careless or negligent use of firearms.

Choke Traps, Leghold Traps or Nets for taking any bird or mammal.

Decoys for hunting deer.

Discharge of any Firearm or release of any arrow upon or across any state or hard-surfaced highway, or within 150 feet of any such highway, or possession of a loaded firearm, discharge of a firearm, or hunting on the land of another within 500 feet of any dwelling or building in use, except as authorized by the owner or occupant thereof. See page 17 for additional firearms regulations.

Electronic Calls for hunting migratory game birds, wild turkey, or deer.

Ferreting. It is unlawful to hunt with a ferret. Possession of non-vaccinated/unneutered ferrets /fitches without permit is unlawful.

Hunting on Posted Land without permission.

Hunting on Sunday.

Importation, transportation, liberation or possession of any live vertebrate protected under Chapter 131 of the General Laws except under permit from the Director.

It is illegal to import, process or possess whole carcasses or parts of any cervids (members of the deer family) from states or provinces where CWD has been detected except that it is legal to import meat that is de-boned, cleaned skull caps, hides without the head, or a fixed taxidermy mount. No live deer, of any species, may be brought into Massachusetts for any purpose.

Intoxication and Drugs - No person under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs shall hunt, target shoot, carry a firearm, bow and arrow or other weapon.

Loaded Shotgun or rifle in or on any motor vehicle, recreational vehicle (including snowmobiles), aircraft or motor boat, except as stated in the Migratory Bird Hunting Abstracts.

Machine Guns, fully-automatic firearms, any tracer or incendiary ammunition for hunting. Crossbows are allowed for certain handicapped persons only (see Archery).

Motor Vehicles, Recreational Vehicles (including Snowmobiles), Aircraft for hunting any bird or mammal.

Possession of any protected wildlife and/or wild plants, dead or alive, taken from the wild, except by permit.

Possession of rifles, handguns, or dogs in any woodland or field, or use of same on any game, is prohibited during the shotgun deer season except that the use of dogs is lawful for hunting waterfowl on coastal waters.

Power or Sailboats for hunting birds except when beached or tied to blind or for retrieving injured birds.

Removal of any mammal from walls, holes in trees, ground or logs.

Rifles chambered to take larger than .22 caliber long rifle rimfire ammunition, pistols and revolvers larger than .38 caliber between the hours of 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise. Weapons other than shotguns and bows and arrows are prohibited on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant and quail season.

Sale of all species of mammals and birds or parts thereof, except heads, hides and hooves of deer.

Shotgun Ammunition - Except as provided below, no species other than deer, coyote or waterfowl may be hunted or taken with shot larger than #1 birdshot.

Except during the prescribed open season when deer may be hunted lawfully with a shotgun, a person shall not have in his possession a shotgun shell loaded with a rifled slug, single ball, buckshot of any size, or any shot larger than or equal to air rifle shot in any place where birds or mammals may be found except on a skeet, trap or target range between sunrise and sunset, or **except** for the hunting of coyotes (a) during the prescribed open season for coyotes with shot not larger than FF, or (b) during the shotgun deer season when coyotes may be hunted with slugs, buckshot, or shot of any size; or except as specified in the annual Migratory Bird Hunting Abstracts.

Swivel or Pivot Guns for hunting any bird.

Taking Nests, destroying or disturbing eggs or nests of birds protected by law.

Target Shooting on Sunday except on one's own property or on a recognized range.

Traps for taking birds except under permit. All traps except cage or box traps and common mouse or rat traps are unlawful for the taking of fur-bearing mammals.

Vandalism or damage to property or livestock.

Penalties - License revoked for one year in addition to other penalties, fines of up to \$1,000, restitutions, and/or 1 year in jail. Careless and negligent use of firearms - fines of up to \$500 and/or 6 months imprisonment and loss of license for 5 years.

LICENSES, PERMITS AND STAMPS

Licenses are valid from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 (except for limited term licenses).

Licenses are required for all persons 15 years of age and over for fishing (inland waters) and hunting (any bird or mammal). Trapping license required for persons 12 years and over. License must be shown on demand to any officer empowered to enforce these laws; and to landowners or lessees while on their property. No F.I.D. card needed if 12 to 14 years of age, or for bowhunting. Face of license must not be obscured. **NOTE:** No adult may buy a hunting or sporting license unless he shows the issuing agent a previous year's hunting or sporting license (from any state) or a certificate of completion of a Hunter Education Course issued by any state or province.

Minors 15 through 17 years of age are required to be licensed and to have required stamps and permits. To obtain a license a minor must have a Hunter Education Certificate or a letter signed by a parent affirming that the minor will be accompanied by an adult while hunting. Minors between 12 and 14 inclusive may hunt when accompanied by a duly licensed adult, provided that a single bag limit shall be observed and only one firearm/bow is possessed by the two. Only one minor per adult is permitted.

Residency Requirement - To obtain a resident license applicant must reside in Mass. for six consecutive months immediately prior to purchase.

Nonresidents - A big-game license is required to hunt deer, bear and turkey. **Aliens** who want to hunt with a firearm must obtain a permit from the Dept. of Public Safety for possession of firearms prior to obtaining a hunting license.

Licenses are issued by most city and town clerks, all MassWildlife offices and selected other outlets. Application may be made in person or by mail, or by agent of applicant. NOTE: City and town clerks **MUST** add an additional dollar (\$1.00). Other sales agents **MAY** add up to an additional One Dollar and Fifty Cent (\$1.50) service fee to the price of each license sold. No service fee is added to the price of licenses at MassWildlife offices.

Licenses, stamps, permits, and boat registration renewals are also available online at mass.gov/mas-soutdoors. Anyone holding an electronic license may subsequently purchase stamps, permits or boat registration renewals over the Internet. Persons holding traditional licenses must purchase permits, stamps and licenses at license sales outlets in the traditional way.

Special Licenses or Permits are necessary for possession or release of certain wildlife and for dealers, propagators, wildlife rehabilitators, taxidermists and/or fur buyers. Apply to the MassWildlife Boston office, Permit Section, (617) 626-1575. Contact Field Headquarters in Westboro, (508) 389-6300, for permits for falconry, problem animal control or shooting preserves.

Landowners - No license is required by any legal resident of the Commonwealth or member of his immediate family for hunting, fishing or trapping on land owned or leased by him which is used principally for agriculture, if he is, or they are, actually domiciled thereon.

Antlerless Deer Permit is required to take antlerless deer during shotgun, archery and muzzleloader seasons in all zones. (Application is on hunting/sporting license.) **DO NOT send fee with application.** Selection is by random drawing. Applications must be submitted by **July 16**. Successful applicants will be notified and assessed a \$5.00 fee. Additional permits, if available after drawing, will be issued until the overall quota for each zone is reached. Check website for details. Applicants must have original hunting license and \$5.00 fee for each permit requested. Permits for zone 13 and 14 may also be requested by mail from the Westboro office or at check stations on each island.

Bear Permit - Application is on the duplicate slip of hunting/sporting license. \$5.00 fee **MUST** accompany each completed application. Current holders of electronic licenses may purchase permits on-line. Submit application by July 15 to ensure timely processing.

Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (H.I.P.) provides the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service with migratory game bird harvest estimates for ducks, geese and other migratory game birds. Hunter cooperation is a critical part of gathering this information

and managing game bird populations. Woodcock, rail, coot, snipe and waterfowl hunters **must** have a Harvest Information Permit (H.I.P.) number. This number can be obtained annually by calling **1-800-WETLAND**, and completing a brief survey. There is no charge for the permit.

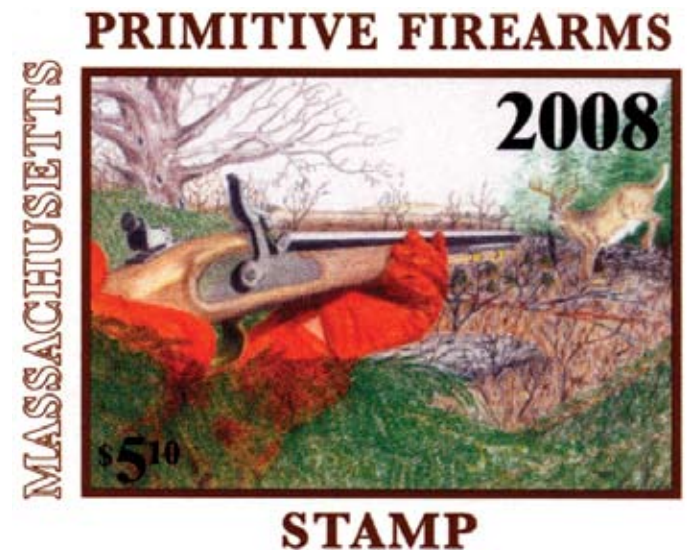
Turkey Permit - Application is on the duplicate slip of hunting/sporting license. Current holders of electronic licenses may purchase permits on-line. Apply by March 15 for spring season & Sept. 15 for fall season to ensure entry in the permit system. **\$5.00 fee MUST accompany application.** One fee covers both seasons.

Waterfowl Consumption Advisory: The MA Department of Public Health has issued a waterfowl consumption advisory for the Housatonic River due to PCBs. For more information call the MDPH at (617) 624-5757.

For a listing of Turkey, Bear, Deer and Furbearer check stations, visit our website or send a Self-addressed Stamped Envelope to Field Headquarters, Westboro.

STAMPS

Archery Stamp (\$5.10), required to hunt deer with a bow from Oct. 13 - Nov. 22. Stamp must be signed across the face in ink and attached to the rear of the license.



Primitive Firearms Stamp (\$5.10), required to hunt deer with a muzzleloader or with archery equipment Dec. 15 - 31. Stamp must be signed across the face in ink and attached to the rear of the license.

Mass. Waterfowl Stamp (\$5.00), required in addition to Federal Stamp. Stamp must be signed across the face in ink and in possession while hunting waterfowl. (Not needed for Woodcock, Snipe, or Rails).



MASSACHUSETTS GUN LAWS

Possession: For hunting, resident citizens ages 15 and over must have a Firearms Identification Card (FID) to possess a non-large capacity rifle or shotgun. A License To Carry (LTC) is needed to possess large capacity rifles and shotguns and **all** handguns. Non-residents with a valid Massachusetts non-resident hunting license do not need an LTC or FID to possess or carry a rifle or shotgun, but must carry their firearms unloaded and in a case while traveling in their vehicles. Non-residents may not purchase guns or ammunition in Massachusetts. No License to Carry (LTC) or Firearms Identification (FID) Card is needed by bow hunters, nor by minors 12-14 years old hunting with a duly licensed adult, nor for the possession of primitive rifles or shotguns as defined in Chapter 140, Section 121, or their ammunition. However, an LTC or FID is required to purchase all ammunition, including black powder and Pyrodex.

Caution: Massachusetts public safety laws define primitive arms differently from the laws and regulations of *MassWildlife*.

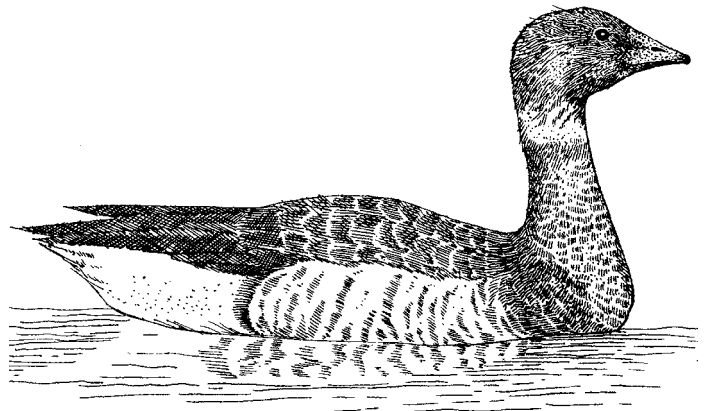
Travel: Rifles, shotguns, and muzzleloaders may not be carried in or on motor vehicles, nor may they be carried on public ways, unless they are unloaded and in an enclosed case, or the person is lawfully engaged in hunting. A large capacity rifle or shotgun must be carried unloaded, and contained within a locked trunk or in a locked case or other secure container.

Storage: State law requires that whenever a gun is not under your direct control, it must be kept in a locked container or equipped with a tamper resistant mechanical lock. Muzzleloaders are exempt from this requirement.

Penalties: License revoked for one year in addition to other penalties, fines of up to \$1,000, restitution, and/or 1 year in jail. Careless and negligent use of firearms - fines of up to \$500 and/or 6 months imprisonment and loss of license for 5 years.

TRANSPORT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

It is a violation of **FEDERAL LAW** to transport illegally taken fish or wildlife across state lines. For additional information contact the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, Phone: (617) 889-6616.



MIGRATORY BIRD REGULATIONS:

For comprehensive information obtain separate Migratory Bird Abstracts from *MassWildlife* available September 2008. All migratory bird hunters **must** have a H.I.P. number. Call 1-800-WETLAND.

TRAPPING REGULATIONS:

For comprehensive trapping information obtain separate Trapping Abstract from *MassWildlife* available October 2008.



Photo by Bill Byrne

Bring the excitement of Massachusetts Wildlife to your home by subscribing to MASSACHUSETTS WILDLIFE magazine – see back cover.

FEDERAL WILDLIFE LAW INFORMATION

Please note that fishing and hunting laws on federal parks, refuges and reservations, such as that controlled by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service or the National Park Service, may differ from state regulations. Contact the agency in question.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS

MassWildlife holds 129 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and 13 wildlife sanctuaries. Maps are available online and at all *MassWildlife* offices.

1. No person shall possess any alcoholic beverage except under permit or dump or discard any can, bottle or rubbish.
2. No person shall remove vegetation, soil or stones from any WMA except under permit.
3. No person shall use excessive speed in driving a vehicle.
4. No person, unless under permit, shall drive or possess any vehicle except on roads or trails maintained for public traffic.
5. No person shall deface or tamper with any sign, building or equipment.
6. No person shall build or maintain a fire without written permission from the Director of *MassWildlife* or his designee.
7. No person shall camp within any WMA without written permission from the Director or his designee.
8. No person shall engage in target practicing without written permission from the Director or his designee.
9. No person shall use any means other than shotgun or bow and arrow during the pheasant and quail season on areas stocked with pheasant or quail except for hunting raccoons and opossums between 9PM and 3AM.
10. No person shall hunt before sunrise or after sunset on any WMA where pheasant or quail are stocked during the open season on pheasant or quail, Oct. 18 to Nov. 29, except for the hunting of raccoons and opossums between 9PM and 3AM.
11. No person shall hunt during the pheasant or quail season on wildlife management areas where pheasant or quail are stocked without wearing a "hunterorange" cap or hat except while night hunting for raccoons or opossums or while hunting from a blind or boat.
12. No person, except under permit, shall dig or disturb any artifact or archaeological remains.
13. The Director may make special regulations to handle special situations peculiar to any WMA. Controlled hunts are in effect at certain times on Burns, Delaney and Ludlow WMAs. Contact District Supervisor for details.

Any landowner permitting use of his property for recreation without charging a fee is not liable for injuries to recreational users or their property except in cases of willful, wanton or reckless conduct by the owner.
(Chapter 21, Section 17C MGL)

Do you want to know where to go fishing or boating? **Public Access to the Waters of Massachusetts** is now available. This 146 page map booklet will show and tell you information about current public sites. Send \$8.00, payable by check to:

Office of Fishing & Boating Access
Department of Fish and Game
1440 Soldiers Field Road
Brighton, MA 02135

For more information call: (617) 727-1843



**HAVE A QUESTION?
VISIT OUR WEBSITE**
mass.gov/masswildlife
or e-Mail us at
mass.wildlife@state.ma.us

For questions regarding conflicts with wildlife, stocking of fish or gamebirds, or other **regional** issues contact your nearest District Wildlife Supervisor. For the district locations and phone numbers please see page 17.

For questions regarding the following programs please call the listed numbers:

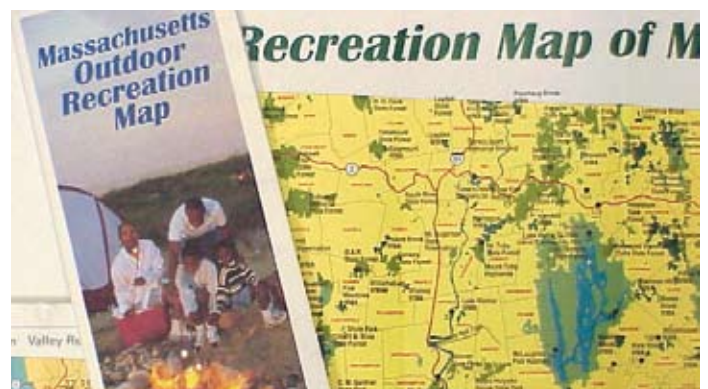
Art Contests, Stamps	(508) 389-6300
Aquatic Resource Education	(508) 389-6300
Becoming an Outdoorswoman	(508) 389-6300
Hunter Education	(978) 632-7648
Mass. Jr. Conservation Camp	(508) 389-6300
Project WILD	(508) 389-6300
Mass. Wildlife Magazine	(508) 389-6300
Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program	(508) 389-6300
Publications	(508) 389-6300
Fishing/Hunting Information	(508) 389-6300
Licenses	(617) 626-1590 or (508) 389-6300
Sportfishing Awards	(508) 389-6300
Trapping	(508) 389-6300
Waterfowl	(508) 389-6300
Wildlife Lands	(617) 626-1574

PERMITS:

Bear/Turkey /Antlerless Deer Permits	(508) 389-6300
(Non-hunting): Permit Section	(617) 626-1575

The Massachusetts Wildlife Viewing Guide & Critters of Massachusetts

The **Massachusetts Viewing Guide** is 96 pages of wonderful trips to see wildlife and their habitats, from the summit of Mt. Greylock to the depths of Stellwagen Bank. \$8.95 at any *MassWildlife* office, or send \$8.95 plus \$2.00 for postage and handling to the Westboro Field Headquarters, One Rabbit Hill Rd. Westboro, MA 01581. **Critters of Massachusetts** is for kids. Basic info on mammals, birds and reptiles. Available at any *MassWildlife* office or send \$5.00 plus \$1.50 p&h to above address.



MassWildlife's Outdoor Recreation Map features maps and grids with information on Wildlife Management Areas, State Forests and Parks, and Boat Access sites statewide. Copies can be obtained from a number of DCR and *MassWildlife* locations.

MassWildlife 2008 Sun Rise/Sun Set Table for WORCESTER, Massachusetts

DAY	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December	
	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET
	hm		hm		hm		hm		hm		hm		hm		hm		hm		hm		hm		hm	
1	0716	1625	0701	1701	0623	1737	0530	1813	0443	1846	0413	1917	0414	1928	0440	1907	0512	1822	0544	1729	0620	1641	0656	1616
2	0716	1626	0700	1702	0622	1738	0529	1814	0442	1847	0413	1918	0415	1927	0441	1906	0513	1820	0545	1728	0621	1640	0657	1616
3	0716	1627	0659	1704	0620	1739	0527	1815	0441	1848	0413	1918	0415	1927	0442	1905	0514	1818	0546	1726	0622	1639	0658	1615
4	0716	1628	0658	1705	0618	1740	0525	1816	0439	1850	0412	1919	0416	1927	0443	1903	0515	1817	0547	1724	0624	1637	0659	1615
5	0716	1629	0657	1706	0617	1742	0524	1817	0438	1851	0412	1920	0417	1927	0444	1902	0516	1815	0548	1722	0625	1636	0700	1615
6	0716	1630	0656	1708	0615	1743	0522	1818	0437	1852	0411	1921	0417	1926	0445	1901	0517	1813	0549	1721	0626	1635	0701	1615
7	0716	1631	0654	1709	0613	1744	0520	1819	0435	1853	0411	1921	0418	1926	0446	1900	0518	1811	0551	1719	0627	1634	0702	1615
8	0716	1632	0653	1710	0612	1745	0519	1821	0434	1854	0411	1922	0418	1926	0447	1858	0519	1810	0552	1717	0629	1633	0703	1615
9	0716	1633	0652	1712	0610	1746	0517	1822	0433	1855	0411	1922	0419	1925	0448	1857	0521	1808	0553	1716	0630	1632	0704	1615
10	0715	1634	0651	1713	0608	1748	0515	1823	0432	1856	0411	1923	0420	1925	0449	1856	0522	1806	0554	1714	0631	1631	0705	1615
11	0715	1635	0649	1714	0607	1749	0514	1824	0431	1857	0410	1923	0421	1924	0450	1854	0523	1805	0555	1712	0632	1630	0706	1615
12	0715	1636	0648	1715	0605	1750	0512	1825	0430	1858	0410	1924	0421	1924	0451	1853	0524	1803	0556	1711	0634	1629	0707	1615
13	0715	1638	0647	1717	0603	1751	0510	1826	0429	1859	0410	1924	0422	1923	0452	1851	0525	1801	0557	1709	0635	1628	0707	1615
14	0714	1639	0645	1718	0602	1752	0509	1827	0427	1900	0410	1925	0423	1923	0453	1850	0526	1759	0558	1708	0636	1627	0708	1615
15	0714	1640	0644	1719	0600	1753	0507	1828	0426	1901	0410	1925	0424	1922	0454	1849	0527	1757	0600	1706	0637	1626	0709	1616
16	0713	1641	0643	1721	0558	1755	0505	1829	0425	1902	0410	1926	0425	1921	0455	1847	0528	1756	0601	1704	0639	1625	0710	1616
17	0713	1642	0641	1722	0556	1756	0504	1831	0424	1903	0410	1926	0425	1921	0456	1846	0529	1754	0602	1703	0640	1624	0710	1616
18	0712	1643	0640	1723	0555	1757	0502	1832	0423	1904	0410	1926	0426	1920	0457	1844	0530	1752	0603	1701	0641	1623	0711	1617
19	0712	1645	0638	1724	0553	1758	0501	1833	0423	1905	0410	1927	0427	1919	0458	1843	0531	1750	0604	1700	0642	1622	0712	1617
20	0711	1646	0637	1726	0551	1759	0459	1834	0422	1906	0411	1927	0428	1919	0459	1841	0532	1749	0605	1658	0644	1622	0712	1617
21	0710	1647	0635	1727	0549	1800	0458	1835	0421	1907	0411	1927	0429	1918	0501	1840	0533	1747	0607	1657	0645	1621	0713	1618
22	0710	1648	0634	1728	0548	1801	0456	1836	0420	1908	0411	1927	0430	1917	0502	1838	0534	1745	0608	1655	0646	1620	0713	1618
23	0709	1650	0632	1729	0546	1802	0455	1837	0419	1909	0411	1928	0431	1916	0503	1836	0535	1743	0609	1654	0647	1620	0714	1619
24	0708	1651	0631	1731	0544	1804	0453	1838	0418	1910	0411	1928	0432	1915	0504	1835	0536	1742	0610	1652	0648	1619	0714	1619
25	0707	1652	0629	1732	0543	1805	0452	1840	0418	1911	0412	1928	0433	1914	0505	1833	0537	1740	0611	1651	0649	1619	0714	1620
26	0707	1653	0628	1733	0541	1806	0450	1841	0417	1912	0412	1928	0434	1913	0506	1832	0538	1738	0613	1649	0651	1618	0715	1621
27	0706	1655	0626	1734	0539	1807	0449	1842	0416	1913	0413	1928	0435	1912	0507	1830	0540	1736	0614	1648	0652	1618	0715	1621
28	0705	1656	0625	1736	0537	1808	0447	1843	0416	1914	0413	1928	0436	1911	0508	1828	0541	1735	0615	1647	0653	1617	0715	1622
29	0704	1657			0536	1809	0446	1844	0415	1915	0413	1928	0437	1910	0509	1827	0542	1733	0616	1645	0654	1617	0716	1623
30	0703	1659			0534	1810	0445	1845	0415	1915	0414	1928	0438	1909	0510	1825	0543	1731	0617	1644	0655	1616	0716	1624
31	0702	1700			0532	1812			0414	1916			0439	1908	0511	1823			0619	1642			0716	1624

Eastern Standard Time: Add one hour for daylight savings time, if and when in use. Source: U. S. Naval Observatory • Astronomical Applications Department • Washington, D.C. 20392-5420

BOSTON: Subtract 3 Minutes • SPRINGFIELD: Add 3 Minutes • PITTSFIELD: Add 7 Minutes

Office of Law Enforcement

To Report Violations Call: 1-800-632-8075

MAIN OFFICES

Director
James Hanlon, *Colonel*
Deputy Director
Roger Arduini, *Lieutenant Colonel*
251 Causeway Street, Suite 101
Boston, MA 02114

617-626-1650
FAX: 617-626-1670

INLAND ENFORCEMENT



Inland Bureau Headquarters
Bruce A. Bennett, *Major*
183 Milk Street
Westboro, MA 01581

508-366-1176
508-366-6537
FAX: 508-366-1182

Eastern Massachusetts
Gerald Santos, *Lieutenant*
11 Hawks Avenue, P.O. Box 88
Hanson, MA 02341

781-293-4745
FAX: 781-293-4746

Western Massachusetts
Len Roberts, *Captain*
316 Turners Falls Road
Montague, MA 01351

413-367-0016
FAX: 413-367-0032

COASTAL ENFORCEMENT

Coastal Enforcement Headquarters
Kathleen Dolan, *Major*
349 Lincoln Street, Building 45
Hingham, MA 02043

781-740-2577
781-740-2442
781-740-1163
FAX: 781-740-4113

John Tulik, *Captain*
2 State Fish Pier
Gloucester, MA 01930

978-283-7764
978-283-1162
FAX: 978-283-6729

South Coastal Enforcement Headquarters
Peter Hanlon, *Captain*
1 Trowbridge Road
Bourne, MA 02532

508-759-4889
FAX: 508-759-7774

MARINE THEFT/ BOATING SAFETY

George Agganis, *Captain*
251 Causeway Street, Suite 101
Boston, MA 02114

617-626-1666
FAX: 617-626-1605

BOATING & RECREATIONAL VEHICLE SAFETY

Lawrence Chenier, *Lieutenant*
1 Trowbridge Road, Suite 325
Bourne, MA 02532

508-759-0002
508-759-2257
508-759-3393
FAX: 508-759-3357

ENVIRONMENTAL STRIKE FORCE

Gail Larson, *Lieutenant*
1 Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

617-727-2200
FAX: 617-727-5755

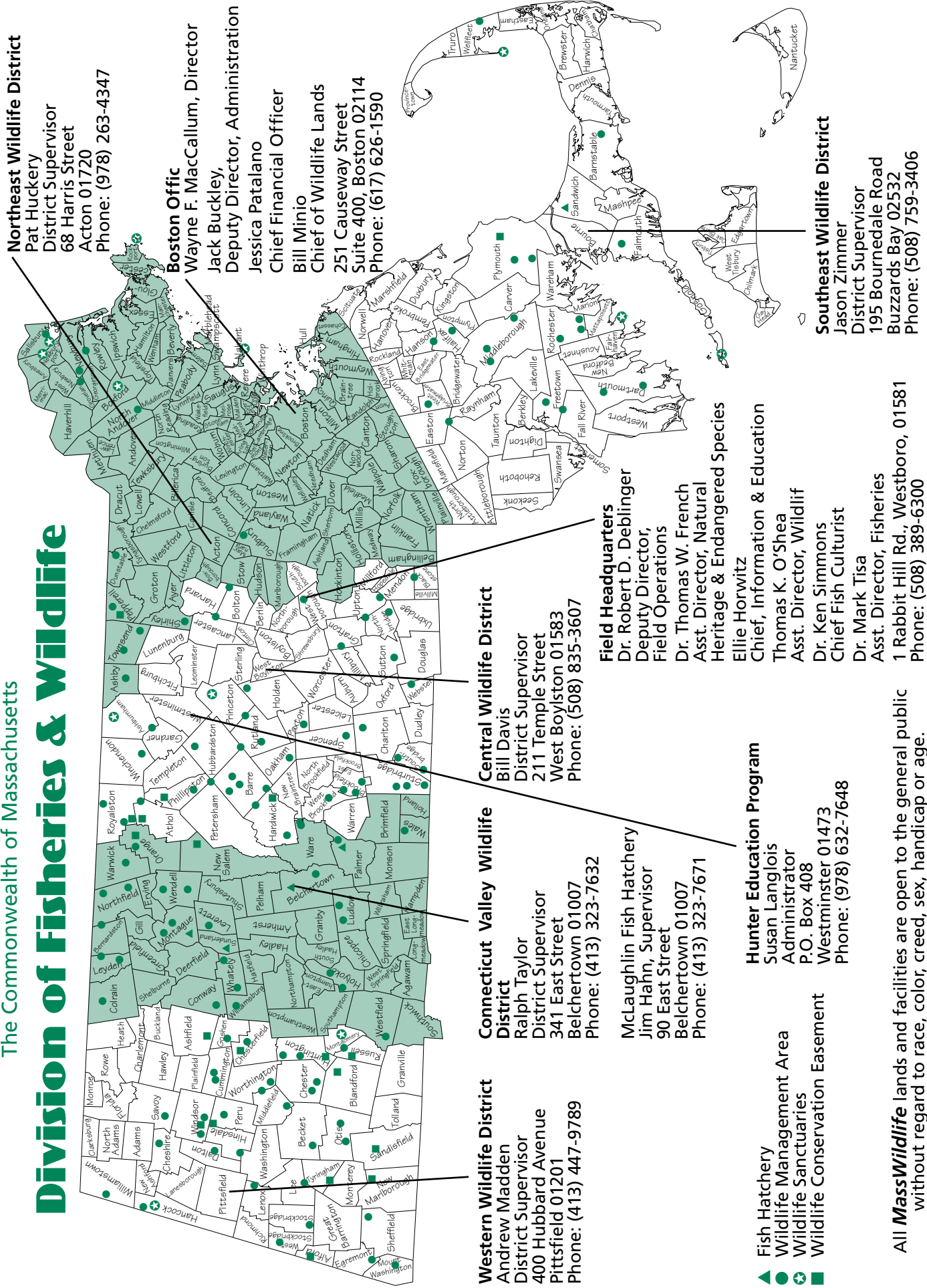
www.mass.gov/dfwe/dle

SALVAGE

ROAD-KILLED DEER may be kept by Massachusetts driver or passenger of vehicle killing deer if reported to Law Enforcement at **1-800-632-8075** immediately and then tagged at **MassWildlife** or at a Law Enforcement office within 24 hours and free permit issued.

ROAD-KILLED MOOSE may not be kept by a Massachusetts driver or passenger of the vehicle killing the moose. The disposition of any moose carcass is **only** at the discretion of the Massachusetts Environmental Police or the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Division of Fisheries & Wildlife



Education Programs

MassWildlife offers a wide range of educational and skills programs. With suitable lead time, these programs can be adapted to the needs of virtually any group.



Angler Education Program — teaches people of all ages, especially children, about the relationships between fish and their environment. The program teaches freshwater fishing skills, basic safety techniques, outdoor ethics and aquatic ecology through workshop sessions and/or through family fishing festivals.



Hunter Education Program — provides courses in the safe handling of firearms, and other outdoor activities related to hunting and firearm use. Designed for novices, courses in Basic Hunter Education, Bowhunter Education, Trapper Education, Muzzleloader Education, and Map, Compass & Survival are offered statewide throughout the year. Certificates in certain courses satisfy hunting license requirements for Massachusetts as well as other states and Canadian provinces. Call (978) 632-7648 or check the website for more information.



Becoming an Outdoors-Woman — weekend and occasional one-day programs offer women of all ages an opportunity to sample a variety of outdoor activities from archery to wildlife photography and from kayaking to fly fishing. Sessions are designed for novices.



Junior Duck Stamp Program — Students participate in a state-wide duck stamp contest that combines art with wetlands and waterfowl information. Co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Wildlife Federation, Massachusetts Waterfowlers, Ducks Unlimited and others.

Endangered Bog Turtle



Vernal Pool Program — Information highlighting rare and endangered species, their habitats and protection strategies is available in the form of fact sheets, a vernal pool certification packet, posters, a field guide to vernal pools, another for dragonflies and damselflies, a county checklist of vascular plants, and a guide to the protection of freshwater biodiversity.

Project WILD — Emphasizes wildlife, people and the environment which they share. Six hour workshops are available for people who work with children in grades K-12. Participants receive either the Project WILD or Aquatic WILD activity guide. PDPs are available.

Massachusetts Junior Conservation Camp — A two week summer program for campers 13 to 17 years old. The program stresses outdoor sports including fishing, hunting, boating and instruction in fisheries, wildlife management and forestry, all in a fun setting. Co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Sportsmen's Junior Conservation Camp, Inc., the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, the Office of Law Enforcement, and G.O.A.L.

**For information on any of these programs call
MassWildlife (508) 389-6300.**

Photo by Tom Natoli



Youth Hunts — The Massachusetts Youth Pheasant Hunt provides an opportunity for 12-17 year old Hunter Education graduates to practice firearms safety, develop shooting skills and participate in a special pheasant hunt under the guidance of a safe, experienced hunter. For more information contact your local Wildlife District office or Field Headquarters, Westborough.



Northern Leopard Frog

2008 FEES

F1	Resident Fishing	\$27.50
F2	Resident Minor Fishing (Age 15-17)	11.50
F3	Resident Fishing (Age 65-69)	16.25
F4	Resident Fishing (Age 70 or over or paraplegic, blind, mentally retarded)	
FREE		
F6	Non-resident Fishing	37.50
F7	Non-resident Fishing (3 day)	23.50
F8	Resident Fishing (3 day)	12.50
F9	Non-res. Fishing (Age 15-17)	11.50
F10	Quabbin One Day Fishing (Quabbin only) (sold by DCR & Conn. Valley District only)	5.00
H1	Resident Citizen Hunting	27.50
H2	Resident Hunting (Age 65-69)	16.25
H3	Resident Hunting, Paraplegic	FREE
H4	Resident Alien Hunting	27.50
H5	Non-resident Hunting, Big Game	99.50
H6	Non-resident Hunting, Small Game	65.50
H7	Non-resident Commercial Shooting Preserve (1 day)	10.00
H8	Resident Minor Hunting (Age 15-17)	11.50
H9	Resident Commercial Shooting Preserve (1 day)	10.00
S1	Resident Sporting	45.00
S2	Resident Sporting (Age 65-69)	25.00
S3	Resident Sporting (Age 70 or over)	FREE
T1	Resident Trapping	35.50
T2	Resident Minor Trapping (Age 12-17)	11.50
T3	Resident Trapping (Age 65-69)	20.25
DF	Duplicate Fishing	2.50
DH	Duplicate Hunting	2.50
DS	Duplicate Sporting	2.50
DT	Duplicate Trapping	2.50
M1	Archery Stamp	5.10
M2	Waterfowl Stamp	5.00
M3	Primitive Firearms Stamp	5.10
W1	Wildlands Stamp, Resident	5.00
W2	Wildlands Stamp, Non-resident	5.00

NOTE: Fee for **FIRST** resident license, **ALL** non-resident licenses **include** a \$5.00 fee for the Wildlands Conservation Stamp. Fee for **SECOND RESIDENT LICENSE** in calendar year, **DOES NOT** include a \$5.00 fee for the Wildlands Conservation Stamp. City and town clerks **MUST** add an additional One Dollar (\$1.00) and other sales agents **MAY** add up to an additional One Dollar and Fifty Cent (\$1.50) service fee to the price of each license sold. There is **NO SERVICE FEE** charged for the purchase of licenses at offices of **MassWildlife**.

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AB 2008



Photo by Bill Byrne

Sandhill Cranes

Massachusetts regulates 442 species of rare animals and plants. Census, inventory and research are high priority needs for these species. The MDFW's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program protects these species and their habitats to preserve the biological diversity of the Commonwealth. As a citizen of Massachusetts **you can help** protect these rare animals and plants by contributing on your state income tax form, or by donating directly to:



NATURAL HERITAGE & ENDANGERED SPECIES FUND

Please make checks payable to the **Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Fund**, and mail to: Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581. Thank you!

Send check or money order to:
MASSACHUSETTS WILDLIFE
Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
Field Headquarters
Westborough, Massachusetts 01581